

THL 200 *Principles of Christian Living*

Scott D. Winnail, MSPH, Ph.D.

Living University

Email: swinnail@livinguniv.com

Phone: 704-708-2292

EMAILING INSTRUCTOR: Feel free to email me with questions or thoughts. When doing so however, please be sure to put *THL 200* in the subject line of your email. This way I will immediately know that the email is a course matter and I can tend to it accordingly. It may take one or two days to respond due to my travel responsibilities. I will almost always email you back to at least let you know that I received your email. *Please note that this course will be overseen and offered by Dr. Scott Winnail, however, the majority of the lectures will be presented by Dr. Douglas Winnail.*

PREREQUISITES & COREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT and READINGS:

Textbook

The Bible – preferably the New King James version (also consult other translations)

Booklets

The following booklets are available online in HTML and PDF format from the “Booklets” link on the www.lcg.org website:

Winnail, Douglas S.

The Real God: Proofs and Promises

Winnail, Douglas S.

The Bible: Fact or Fiction

Meredith, Roderick C.

The Ten Commandments

Meredith, Roderick C.

Your Ultimate Destiny

Meredith, Roderick C.

What is a True Christian?

Herbert W. Armstrong

The Seven Laws of Success (available on the course web site for download, or available for purchase through the internet).

Articles

There are many additional articles that will be used for your readings. These are listed by Title on the schedule below. Details and links are provided on the course web site.

ADDITIONAL READINGS: Additional readings will periodically come from church literature. The appropriate web links will be designated on the course web site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This covers the purpose for human life and biblical principles for achieving that purpose. Topics include the foundations for choices in life, life plans, interpersonal relationships and fundamental values related to health, social development, dating, marriage, family life, parenting, life transitions, aging and death. Upon completion, students should be able to explain and demonstrate a basic knowledge of practical Christian living. A set of contemporary lectures by Dr. Douglas Winnail dealing with the foundations of Christian living in today’s world will accompany this course.

Technology Access: This course requires web access and the student also has to have an established e-mail account. The following FREEware applications may be useful in this course.

- *Adobe Acrobat Reader* is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. It may be downloaded **for free** at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, which may then be installed and used to access PDF documents on the course website.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As a result of participating in THL 200, students should be able to:

1. Provide sound reasons for believing in God and for using the Bible as a guide for making fundamental choices in life.
2. Contrast what the Bible reveals about the purpose and path of life with assumptions made by atheists about life and values.
3. Describe biblical principles for setting goals and achieving success in life.
4. Discuss biblical principles that promote health, the wise use of time and the choice and preparation for careers.
5. Describe biblical principles for Christian social development, marriage, parenting and handling the challenges of family life.
6. Discuss what the Bible reveals about aging and death.
7. Describe what the Bible reveals about spiritual growth and maturity
8. Provide sound reasons for believing in God and for using the Bible as a guide for making fundamental choices in life.
9. Contrast what the Bible reveals about the purpose and path of life with assumptions made by atheists about life and values.
10. Describe biblical principles for setting goals and achieving success in life.
11. Discuss biblical principles that promote health, the wise use of time and the choice and preparation for careers.
12. Describe biblical principles for Christian social development, marriage, parenting and handling the challenges of family life.
13. Discuss what the Bible reveals about aging and death.
14. Describe what the Bible reveals about spiritual growth and maturity

COURSE LECTURES: Course lectures will be in a video format. PowerPoint slides may also accompany the lectures. See the course website for details.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Submit assignments **on** or **before** the date due. **No** late or make-up assignments will be allowed accept for extreme circumstances (permission of instructor is necessary).
2. **Students will be responsible for the chapter readings** that correspond with the class lecture. Be sure to read the chapter prior to logging in and completing the weekly assignment. Readings will correspond with in-class assignments and will help you be better informed. Completing the readings in advance will make the assignments make more sense to you!
3. **Icebreaker/Biography Forum Post:** All students are required to post a brief biography to the forum *by Friday* of the first week of class. Along with the biography that addresses the following questions. Post a brief biography/background on yourself. Also, please send me an e-copy of a recent PHOTO of yourself, for your fellow classmates' (as well as my) benefit. You should send this photo via email to my email address at swinnail@livinguniv.com. Make sure to put THL 200 PHOTO in the subject line. In your forum post, briefly answer the following questions: (please limit your comments to 200 words). The assignment is worth **15 points**.
 - a. Your Name and the Church area that you attend.
 - b. How long you have been part of/attending the church.
 - c. Why you are taking this particular course and what you hope to learn.
 - d. Whether or not you have taken any other Living University courses.
 - e. Where you intend to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year (if you are able to attend).

4. **Weekly Comments and Class Participation/Forum Discussions:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions by posting weekly comments and questions they might have on the **Discussion Forum** (see the link on the course web site). Each week there will be one or two questions posted on the web page that related to that week. If there are “no unique discussion questions” posted for that particular week, you should choose from one of the following questions to write on and relate the question to one of the topics covered in the readings for the week. Also, make sure that your “comments” are more than merely “personal opinion.” Your comments should be grounded in your chapter readings, lecture notes, and based on scripture. As you post your own comments, be sure to read the comments of your classmates too. This will add greatly to your own forum posts and enrich your own learning.
- What item from the reading this week was most interesting to you? Why?
 - How did the readings this week relate to, reinforce, or conflict with a Bible principle?
 - What implications does one of the items that you learned about have for your lifestyle or the future of your family?
 - How might something you learned this week be addressed similarly or differently in God’s Kingdom?

Minimal participation requires “one” posting per week. Postings are due on or before Friday at noon (in whatever time zone you are located in). Students should also take time at the end of each week (probably on Sundays) to read/review comments from their classmates. Re-posts and additional comments or questions are also encouraged. Class participation points will be assigned in accordance with your level participation, and will be a combination of student and instructor input. The rubric below, will be used for you and I to determine a class participation score. **50 points** is the total score available. Please note that these discussion posts will add to the interactivity of the class, allow you to know what you fellow classmates are thinking, and also get to know your classmates better. The more you are engaged in these class discussions, the more you will get out of the course and the more you will enjoy it. The rubric below illustrates how you will be asked to score yourself on class participation at the end of the semester.

Scale	Criteria
5	Volunteers to share quality ideas/thoughts/findings from readings and experiences with peers <i>frequently</i> . In addition, presents questions to peers and instructor regarding ideas presented. Student is <i>always</i> prepared for class, having completed readings and assignments ahead of time. Comments are well grounded in readings, lecture notes, and scripture (when applicable). Usually posts “replies” to comments made by classmates.
4	Volunteers to share quality ideas/thoughts/findings from readings and experiences with peers <i>frequently</i> , but comments may not be solidly based upon readings, lecture notes, and scripture (when applicable). <i>Usually</i> prepared for class, having completed readings and assignments ahead of time. Posts “replies to classmate comments <i>some of the time</i> .”
3	Volunteers to share quality ideas/thoughts/findings from readings and experiences with peers <i>less frequently</i> than required. <i>Generally</i> prepared for class, having usually completed readings and assignments ahead of time. Comments are often based on opinion and rarely on readings, lecture notes, and scripture (when applicable). <i>Infrequently</i> posts “replies” to classmate comments.
2	Shares ideas/thoughts/findings from readings and experiences as directed, but little effort is put into insuring that they are of quality, and usually comments are much more “opinion” than based on fact and readings, lecture notes and scripture (when applicable). <i>Occasionally</i> prepared for class, rarely having completed readings and assignments ahead of time only occasionally. <i>Does not</i> post reply comments to classmate comments.
1	Is unable to share quality ideas/thoughts/findings from readings and experiences with peers <i>consistently</i> . <i>Seldom or never</i> prepared for class, failing to complete readings and assignments ahead of time. <i>Does not</i> post reply comments to classmate posts.

5. **TWO exams** will be given throughout the course – One at Mid-Term and another at the end of the semester. The mid-term will cover notes, lectures, and readings from the beginning of the semester through the point of the mid-term. The Final Exam is also cumulative and will cover material covered FROM the point of the mid-term through the end of the semester. Both exams will be “open book” and “open note book”. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although the quizzes are open book and notebook, you really

need to “study” ahead of time for these assessments. If you study ahead of time by reviewing your notes and the readings covered, it will greatly expedite your exam time on task. If you do not study ahead of time, the exams will end up taking a great deal of time.

6. **Three Essays** will be due throughout the semester. All essays should be developed in the format of a letter and can be selected from the list of topics below. You should use a formal introduction and closing in your letter. For example: “Dear Mary,” and “Sincerely, Scott.” Each letter should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced and typed. The letter should have a friendly and helpful tone, but should also clearly articulate the correct godly and biblical perspective on the topic. The aim of the assignment is to learn to clearly give feedback and advice that is supported with a strong rationale and also scripture. Use of church publications and of course the Bible will greatly assist with these assignments. Each Essay is worth 50 points and will be graded based upon the following criteria: a) Thoroughness of your answer to the questions posed, b) Strength of arguments put forth, c) clear use of logic instead of “just” an emotional appeal, d) Objective use of scripture to support what you try to say, e) proper Grammar and syntax, f) Positive tone of the letter (it should be encouraging and helpful and should not put down a person for their misunderstanding of issues). Essays/Letters are due on or before the following three dates, at noon time in your time zone:

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS	POINT VALUE		Letter Grade	Total Points
3 Essays/Letters (50 points each)	150		A	373 points or above (90%)
Icebreaker/biography post	15		B	332-372 points (80%)
Class participation	50		C	290-331 points (70%)
Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200		D	249-289 points (60%)
Total	415		F	248 points or below

COURSE TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week	Topics
1	Choices in life God’s Existence Proof of the Bible
2	Why were you born? God’s law: The path for life
3	Seven Laws of Success
4	The Spiritual Dimension of Life
5	Biblical Health Laws
6	Redeeming the time – Using your time wisely
7	Education and careers for the future
8	Christian Social Development
9	Christian Marriage
10	Children and Christian Parenting
11	Traits of a Christian Family Challenges of Youth – Pitfalls of Life
12	Mid-Life and Divorce
13	Aging Gracefully

Week	Topics
	The Grave and Beyond
14	Continue to Grow Life-Long Learning

Essay/Letter Topics:

Write a letter on the following three topics. Three essays are due throughout the semester. All essays should be developed in the format of a letter and can be selected from the list of topics below. You should use a formal introduction and closing in your letter. For example: "Dear Mary," and "Sincerely, Scott." Each letter should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced and typed. The letter should have a friendly and helpful tone, but should also clearly articulate the correct godly and biblical perspective on the topic. The aim of the assignment is to learn to clearly give feedback and advice that is supported with a strong rationale and also scripture. Use of church publications and of course the Bible will greatly assist with these assignments. Each Essay is worth 50 points and will be graded based upon the following criteria: a) Thoroughness of your answer to the questions posed, b) Strength of arguments put forth, c) clear use of logic instead of "just" an emotional appeal, d) Objective use of scripture to support what you try to say, e) proper Grammar and syntax, f) Positive tone of the letter (it should be encouraging and helpful and should not put down a person for their misunderstanding of issues). Essays/Letters are due on or before the following three dates, at noon time in your time zone: **September 4, October 30, and November 20.**

Topic 1: *Success*

A friend in the church just wrote you a letter asking for advice with his/her career. This person is considering a course of study in college and wants to know what you think they should study so that they can make a lot of money when they graduate. Using the knowledge you have gained in the course so far (and what you have learned from some of the booklets), write your friend a letter that is both encouraging and that also outlines important principles for success, as you give this person career advice. **Due on or before September 4 at noon.**

Topic 2: *Finding a mate and a fulfilling life*

You have a friend who is "floundering" with their life. This person has good character, gets along well with others, seems converted, and is fun to be around, but they appear quite aimless and are frustrated by this. This person is 35 years old and works at a fast food restaurant, while living at home with his/her parents. He/she would like to be married, but seems to waste his/her time when not working – watching TV, spending hours on FaceBook and Twitter, playing video games, and the like. This Christian person has asked you for advice on what they can do to be happier and ultimately find a mate. You realize they need to get their life in order "before" looking for a mate, but you also do not want to completely discourage them. Using lessons you have learned in the last three classes (Week 6, 7, 8) and the corresponding readings, give this friend sound and encouraging direction on how they might move toward a more fulfilling life and even marriage. **Due on or before October 30 at noon.**

Topic 3: *Advice for Marriage Problems*

You have a friend or family member who has come to you with marriage problems. This person believes that the Bible IS God's inspired word and knows you are a Christian who has dedicated your life to living by "every word of God." This person respects you and also your understanding of the Bible. This person has been married for two years. He/she loves their mate and their mate loves him/her. They have an infant child and both believe in marriage "till death do us part." However, the marriage has problems that have caused your friend/family member to contemplate the "D word" – "Divorce." They know divorce is wrong, but they do not know what to do. This person's mate seems to work all the time and does not appear to want to communicate. And, your friend is afraid to bring the subject up for fear of getting his/her mate angry. The mate is also moody and distant. There is **no** concern about infidelity, but there is concern over whether the mate still loves your friend/family member or not. The mate does recognize there is a problem and has suggested seeking council, but your friend/family member is not in favor of "involving" anyone in their internal marriage problems. Based on your readings and class lectures for the last 5 weeks (Weeks 9-13), what advice will you give your friend/family member in a letter you will write? Write a letter encouraging this person to hold fast and give him/her several sound suggestions for actions to take to help improve the marriage. **Due on or before November 20.**